

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed September 12, 2005. This response is submitted timely. All extensions fees may be charged to Deposit Account 50-1290.

Claims 1-6 and 20-30 are pending, of which claims 1 and 28 are independent claims.

By the foregoing, the specification is amended and claims 1 and 28 are amended. No new matter is added.

Objections

The specification is objected to for directly referencing claims. The specification is amended to remove such references. The disclosure of claim 1 as originally filed is incorporated in the specification. No new matter is added and all amendments are well supported by the specification as filed. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1 and 28 and dependent claims 3, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,765,340 to Ekblom (Ekblom). Dependent claims 2, 4-6, 21, 23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekblom in view of U.S. Patent No. 603,585 to Crowell (Crowell).

The present invention is a method for packaging rolls of a web material. The method as now claimed in all independent claim includes "*moving the roll rotation station stepwise laterally in the axial direction of the rotating supported roll . . . after dispensing said first wrapping . . .*" By the claimed method, after a first wrapping is made, the roll rotation station moves stepwise laterally, and the second wrapping is made. See for example Figs. 12 and 13. In addition to the stepwise movement of the roll rotation station, a slight movement of the roll rotation station may be performed simultaneously during the first or second wrapping is wound slightly helical manner onto the roll.

Neither Ekblom nor Crowell teach, disclose or suggest the claimed method. Ekblom, i.e. PCT/FI97/0032, and its disadvantages are described in the present invention's specification.

Ekblom, and more particularly Figs. 1-4 and col. 4, lines 8-11, are cited for teaching the step of moving the rotation station laterally in the axial direction of the rotating supported roll relative to the wrapper dispensing system after dispensing the first wrapping. Rather Ekblom teaches at col. 4, lines 8-9 that "*the roll 11 is moved with the transporters 2 . . .*"

In other words, paper roll 11 is stopped by a transporter 2 as roll 11 rolls down ramp 1; col. 3, lines 24 et al. Roll 11 is moved by a transporter 2 and lowered onto support roller (wrapping station) which is stationary. Therein, support rollers (wrapping station) remain in same position during the first and second wrapping stage. Thus, in Ekblom during the winding of the wrapping paper, paper roller 11 is not able to move laterally because the support rollers are not movable. In fact, stoppers 9a, 9b prevent moving paper roll 11 during the wrapping. Consequently, because support rollers 3 are not movable, neither the claimed step of moving the rotation station laterally in the axial direction nor the step of helical wrapping are not taught, disclosed or suggested by Ekblom.

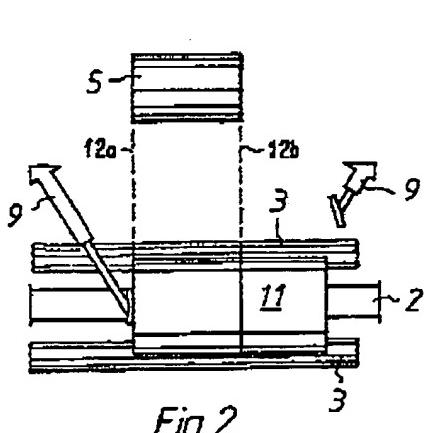


Fig. 2

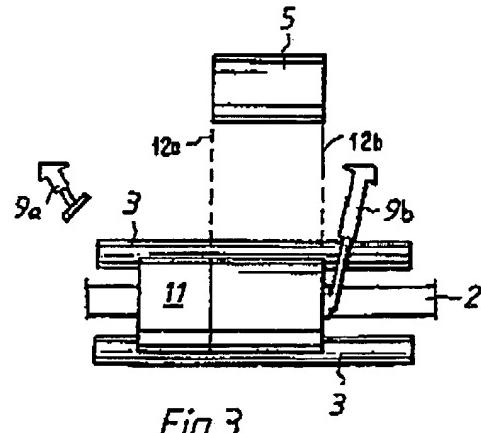


Fig. 3

As further claimed in claim 2, "*each of the first and second wrappings is wound in a slightly helical manner.*" Neither Ekblom nor Crowell, alone or in any combination, teach, disclose or suggest the claimed method.

The disadvantages of Ekblom and similar art, such as those described in the specification, are clear. Therein, the edges of wrapping paper 12a, 12b are positioned in the same axial location (with respect to the axial direction of roll 11). Thus, when a subsequent wrapping is made a distinct, severe, and undesirable change of thickness in the paper occurs at the overlapped part between the wrapping. The change is undesirable because it leaves compression markings on the roll. As described in the specification at page 3, lines 17 et al. and page 7, lines 9 et al., the method of overlapped wrapping as taught by Ekblom is not suited for packaging the most sensitive paper webs. Such paper would include high-value paper, for example, self copying paper or thermal printer paper.

In contrast, the presently claimed method teaches that the slightly helical wrapping is an additional and beneficial feature of a wrapping formed with first and second wrappings in a stepwise manner. By the claimed method, the edges of the wrapping paper layers in each wrapping stage are offset relative to each other. Thus, the wrapper thickness varies smoothly in the overlapped areas. The risk of compression markings impressed on the roll periphery created by bulges in the wrapper thickness is reduced or eliminated. See for example Figs. 7, 7a, 8, 8a, 9, and 9a.

Crowell is cited for filling the gaps of Ekblom. Crowell is directed to wrapping reading materials such as newspapers. Therein, Crowell does not include roll rotation station nor handle a paper roll. It is unclear how Crowell would work in any combination with Ekblom.

Specifically, Crowell discloses at page 1, lines 31-38 that newspapers are bent about a core and are "*advanced longitudinally on the core by belts forming a portion of the surface of the core, a continuous wrapper-web being wound (strongly) spirally about the core and papers thereon to form a continuous (strongly) spirally-wound wrapper-tube inclosing the papers and the core.*" In other words, newspapers are only moved in a longitudinal direction on a core by feeding belts and not on any roll station let alone a roll station that moves laterally as claimed by the independent claims. Thus, Crowell is silent with respect to any roll station or a step of using such a roll station.

Since Ekblom, as described above, does not teach, disclose or suggest the step of moving a roll station laterally, Ekblom does not fill the gaps or Crowell or vice versa.

Even if one or the other were to fill the gaps, it is unclear how the combination would work. Specifically, since Crowell only discloses a core around which reading material would be placed, it is unclear how the stops on each side taught by Ekblom would interact with the numerous material moving on the core taught by Crowell.

As further defined by the presently claimed invention, the step of moving the roll rotation station laterally is performed stepwise. Neither, Ekblom or Crowell, alone or in any combination, teach, disclose or suggest the step of moving the roll rotation station laterally stepwise. As explained above, Ekblom does not include a movable roll station or one that does not include making the claimed move laterally. As further explained above, Crowell does not teach, disclose or suggest a roll rotation station, but rather teaches a core along which newspapers, but not rolls of paper webs, are moved. Neither teaches, alone or in combination, the claimed steps.

For the reasons given, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

All dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they depend.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, including any necessary extension fees, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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